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awareness month



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Tuesday, December 28, 2010

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## Looking towards 2011

### "Man of the Year" – Minister of Tourism, Transport & Labor, Otmar Oduber



Minister Otmar Oduber is honored for being named *Diario's* Man of the Year

2011 is eminent, and Minister of Tourism, Transport and Labor, Otmar Oduber shared his thoughts with THE MORNING NEWS of what island residents and visitors can expect in the coming year. The fact that Aruba's most widely read local language paper in Papiamentu, *Diario*, named him their "Man of the Year," for 2010 came as no surprise, as his ministry has dominated the headlines in any language of island media.

Jim Hepple, President and CEO of the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association, AHATA, credits Minister

Oduber with being the first to head the Tourism industry with the foresight and determination to see the privatization of the government's tourism entity, the Aruba Tourism Authority, become a reality under his administration. "We at AHATA have been encouraging this step for 30 years," commented Jim, "it is essential for Aruba to move forward and maintain their economy in an industry that becomes more competitive and has more players every year."

The privatization of the ATA, which goes into effect on January 1, has already

produced some shake-ups within the organization. The ministry accepted applications for 51 employees in the new ATA, replacing the 75 that populated the staff previously, and six sales reps in fewer locations in the U.S.

"A privatized ATA will be the biggest change for 2011," admits Minister Oduber. "We expect it to be much more efficient. A number of overseas offices, such as Colombia and Brazil, will be reduced from a full staff to only a rep office. We are closing our Florida and Chicago office and maintaining a headquarters in New York with only representatives in the other locations."

"The existing room tax of 9.5% will not increase, but it will be designated fully for the ATA, which will increase our funding," he explained, "as will a new inbound tax of \$7.50 on tickets purchased to Aruba from off island." These funds will be shared by their marketing budget and projects to improve the tourism product, such as the beautification of the road along the shoreline from the airport to Malmok, which will become the Caribbean's longest linear park.

Continued on page 3

## Christmas Message by Aruba Governor

The Christmas celebration is a celebration of hope for a new future; the hope that is blessed with the birth of a child, the Son of God, pure and vulnerable, with the need for care and security.

But, with the potential to develop and become an involved human being; totally committed to the community.

In every one of us there is the need for security and protection. It is for this reason, particularly during this time of year, that we strengthen our ties with family and friends.

It is also at this time that we realize that we do not do this often enough. But Christmas is a time when we experience moments of tranquility in our hectic lives. It offers the opportunity to reflect on the course we are following and on what really matters in life. The nucleus of our existence; that is life together.

Living together requires an effort from all of us; in all situations in which we function.

We must play an active role in our community and take responsibility for one another. That is what counts and that is our task.

In keeping with our norms and values for our families we express life together first by caring for our children and later for our elderly and other members of our family. While this comes natural for us to do within our families, we must also apply this to the larger community.



Many of us give realization of life together, through voluntary social work, or in the area of sports or in aspects regarding nature. Others, through their affiliation in churches or other associations.

This kind of demonstration of solidarity gives added value to the community and is proof of the vitality of our people. This is what gives us hope for the future. This is the spirit we need to give substance to our community.

There is the temptation to resort to the past with some nostalgia...to that time when our family ties and ties with others in our barrio was much stronger; the time when we were more united. An example of this was the time when we acquired our apart status in the Dutch Kingdom.

Continued on page 5



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## Substantial reduction on import duty on automobiles!



Aruba's Prime Minister, Mike Eman

The import duties established for automobiles in 1986 were based on the CIF value which ranged between 30% for automobiles with a value of less than Fls.10.000 to 40% for those less than Fls.20.000, and 50% for those less than Fls.30.000.

However, over the years the price of motor vehicles contin-

ued to rise, without any adjustment to the import duty.

As of the 1st of January 2011, the government will reduce the tariffs substantially. Automobiles of a value less than Afl. 20.000 will no longer pay 40% import duty, but 30%, and those valuing under Afl.30.000 will not be levied 50%, but 40% on import duty. This represents a reduction of 10% on most vehicles. This, the government is convinced will be a boost to our car dealers as well as to our consumers.

In addition, the government also announced that there will be special tariffs for the importation of fully electronic auto-

mobiles. In an effort to stimulate the use of electronic vehicles, the government will introduce a 2% import duty on these types of vehicles.

Hence, those who purchase an electronic vehicle will be saving between 28% to 38% on import duty. Moreover, the government intends to introduce a very special tariff for hybrid vehicles, which will be a levy of 12% for import duty. This also represents a substantial reduction.

Car dealers on the island are making every effort to begin offering fully electronic and hybrid vehicles to our consumers in keeping with the vision of the government to promote a cleaner environment.

During the recently held Aruba Green Conference with ex Vice President Al Gore here in Aruba, Gore and Mike Eman met and discussed extensively the government's decision to introduce fully electronic and hybrid vehicles for Aruba and the fiscal provisions to help encourage this.

Al Gore publicly expressed admiration for the government's impressive fiscal provisions to help stimulate a sustainable development towards a 'green' Aruba.

## Sole female officer in Mexico border town abducted

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AFP) - Gunmen kidnapped a 28-year-old woman who was the sole police officer in the town of Guadalupe, close to the violent northern border city of Ciudad Juarez, state officials said yesterday.

Some ten unidentified gunmen on Thursday set Erika Gandara's home ablaze and torched two cars parked outside before abducting her, witnesses told the state of Chihuahua prosecutor's office.

Gandara was the last police officer in Guadalupe, located on the US-Mexico border some 60 kilometers (40 miles) south-east of Ciudad Juarez, after her colleagues either resigned and fled or were killed.

The town, population 9,000, is in an area frequently used by traffickers to smuggle drugs into the United States.

Guadalupe is just up the road from the town of Praxedis Guadalupe Guerrero, where a 20 year-old female college stu-

dent and mother named Marisol Valles took over as police chief in October.

In late November, unidentified gunmen killed Hermila Garcia Baeza, the police chief of Meoqui, a state of Chihuahua town on a key highway some 175 kilometers (110 miles) from the US-Mexico border.

An attorney, Garcia Baeza had been on the job for only a month.

The Sinaloa and Juarez drug cartels are engaged in a bitter fight for control of Ciudad Juarez and its surrounding towns, key points to smuggle illegal drugs into the lucrative US market.

Across Mexico, more than 30,000 people have been killed in drug-related violence since December 2006, when President Felipe Calderon announced a widespread crackdown and ordered the armed forces to get involved in battling the drug cartels.

## Dutch customs uncover large cocaine shipment

THE HAGUE, The Netherlands (AFP) - Dutch customs said yesterday they had found 200 kilograms of cocaine with a street value of about 10 million euros (13 million dollars) in a container at a storage firm in the country's south.

"An employee of the facility found the merchandise in

the container as it was being offloaded, and called customs," spokesman Mohamed el-Mokaddem told AFP.

The container, which had arrived from South America, contained a number of bags in which there were also smaller packages of cocaine, bound with tape

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## Looking towards 2011 “Man of the Year” – Minister of Tourism ...

Continued from page 1

A board of seven impartial trustees consisting of respected and savvy business operators, such as Jossy Laclé, the former director of Aruba's power and water producing plant, WEB, will administrate the marketing fund and be required to sign off on project budgets exceeding a certain amount.

“The public can expect a much more productive tourism entity without the bureaucracy; we calculate a gain of 20-25% in value in purchasing of marketing tools,” Minister Oduber explained. “The decision making process will be much more efficient, and TPF, The Product Enhancement Fund, will give us much more control over protection of our environmental assets, such as the shoreline.”

A plan to make the shoreline and offshore areas a protected marine park was mentioned as in process. Funds will now be allotted to enforce the prohibition of destructive practices to the underwater environment, such as dropping anchors that damage reefs and indiscriminate net fishing. Minister Oduber also promised the stationing of lifeguards on Aruba's beaches as part of the tourism product improvement plan and a shore patrol.

Beautification of the island also includes the urban areas of Oranjestad and San Nicolas, with a plan to make Oranjestad's main street into a pedestrian mall. To relieve traffic congestion, a parking mall will be constructed on the outskirts of the town and a free trolley service to take shoppers into the center of the city.

Training and certification for all those working directly with island visitors will be implemented in the coming year; raising the quality of service at every level. Vacationers should see an improvement in efficiency and attitude from the moment they arrive, literally, as immigration officers will be one of the first to go through the program.

The finalization of a contract with the Hilton people is expected in the early part of the year, about which the minister is very pleased, and it is expected a luxury resort will replace the defunct Bushiri Resort. The project will be strictly confined to the geographic limits of the present

structure and grounds, and will not claim adjacent properties. Groundbreaking will soon take place for a luxury golf resort on the outskirts of San Nicolas, and with the completion of the change of road north of the Marriott, construction of the Ritz Carlton will begin in earnest in February of 2011. These projects will most likely come to full fruition around late 2012-2013, with high quality additions to its tourism product increasing Aruba's capacity to close to 10,000 rooms.

“I am a person who concentrates greatly on the intrinsic value of our tourism product; this is the vision of my ministry. I think the expansion of inventory will be an asset, but legislation is now being drafted for a moratorium on more resorts,” he replied when asked what he considers a priority for Aruba. “We need to all come together for a strategic plan for the island over the next 10 and 15 years; closely examine expansion and what sort of projects we feel would best enhance the island's tourism product. By the end of 2011 I would like to have a “Master Plan.” The last 25 years since achieving Status Aparte has seen enormous development. What happens in the next 25 years is very important, and the participation of all the community is essential, we should all decide together what the vision and the policy will be for our tourism. It is now the right time for us to all decide how we want to grow, and to closely examine how it will affect our social structure.”

“As we all know, our tourism is the pillar of our economy,” concluded Minister Oduber. “I think the voyage we are taking now requires us to consider growing not in quantity but in quality, and this entitles every one to be part of this. We want to see our local community involved in how we are marketing the island abroad, and we want them to understand our decisions. Aruba's tourism is not dependent on the marketing that has been done overseas, but more than anything on our own people. They are the ones who will determine the future of our tourism.”

by Rosalie Klein



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## Proposed law regarding new legal status of ATA needs analysis and possible changes, according to Juan David Yrausquin

ORANJESTAD -- The proposed law to change the legal status of Aruba's tourism office (ATA) to an independent entity, the so-called “sui-generis” status, was presented to Parliament some days ago. Parliamentarian, Juan David Yrausquin is of the opinion that the proposed law needs careful analysis and possibly some changes to ensure that it will meet the goal of fortifying our most important economic pillar - our tourism. One of the agreements reached between the government and the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association (AHATA) was the creation of an independent Tourism Office. Another agreement was to raise the tax that tourists pay and along with these, increase the government's tourism budget to be able to effectively promote the island internationally.

Both agreements were effected this year, the raising of

the tourist tax and the government's tourism promotion budget increase. Thus, the only agreement yet to be effected is the new legal status of the Aruba Tourism Association (ATA), which entity will be charged with the management of Aruba's tourism promotion.

One of the matters that Parliament needs to evaluate is how far does the new legal status reflect the agreements made between the parties.

An important aspect of the new status, according to the Parliamentarian, is to ascertain from other institutions with a ‘sui-generis’ model, such as at Serlimar, or IMSAM or AZV, how these institutions fare with this model and what are the pros and cons experienced. This way, ATA can learn from these and incorporate the positive elements of this legal status into the proposed law; and improve on those areas that are less positive.

The Legislative Counsel (Raad Van Advies) was extremely negative in their evaluation of the proposed law. Consequently, Parliament must carefully evaluate every article before accepting and approving the new law. Furthermore, the law of Accountability does not apply to institutions with a ‘sui-generis’ legal status and as such it is imperative that there be some clear indication in the new law how financial aspects such as public tenders, and financial reporting to Parliament and to the Government will be handled.

The Parliamentarian continued to observe that Parliament will, therefore, need more time to do the necessary evaluation to guarantee that there will be absolute transparency and to be sure that the proper controls are in place. He concluded with the age old saying that... “He who plants good seed will reap good fruit.”



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## Venezuelan ex-leader Perez to get US burial, says daughter

CARACAS, Venezuela (AFP) - Venezuela's late former president Carlos Andres Perez will be buried in the United States, and his remains will return home only when there is a "real democracy" in the country, one of his daughters said.

A two-term president and influential figure in Venezuelan politics in the second half of the 20th century, Perez died in Miami of an apparent heart attack on Christmas day. He was 88.

Perez was a fierce critic of the current Venezuelan presi-

dent, President Hugo Chavez, whom he described in an interview as "Satan."

"My father wanted to return to Venezuela," daughter Cecilia Perez said in a phone interview from Miami with Globovision network. "But he

never wanted to return under the mandate of Mr. Chavez, he wanted to return to a Venezuela under the real democracy that he struggled so much for. We want him to return with full honors, and all the recognition, in the kind of big event that he deserves," she added.

Perez will be buried in Miami on Wednesday, Cecilia Perez told reporters.

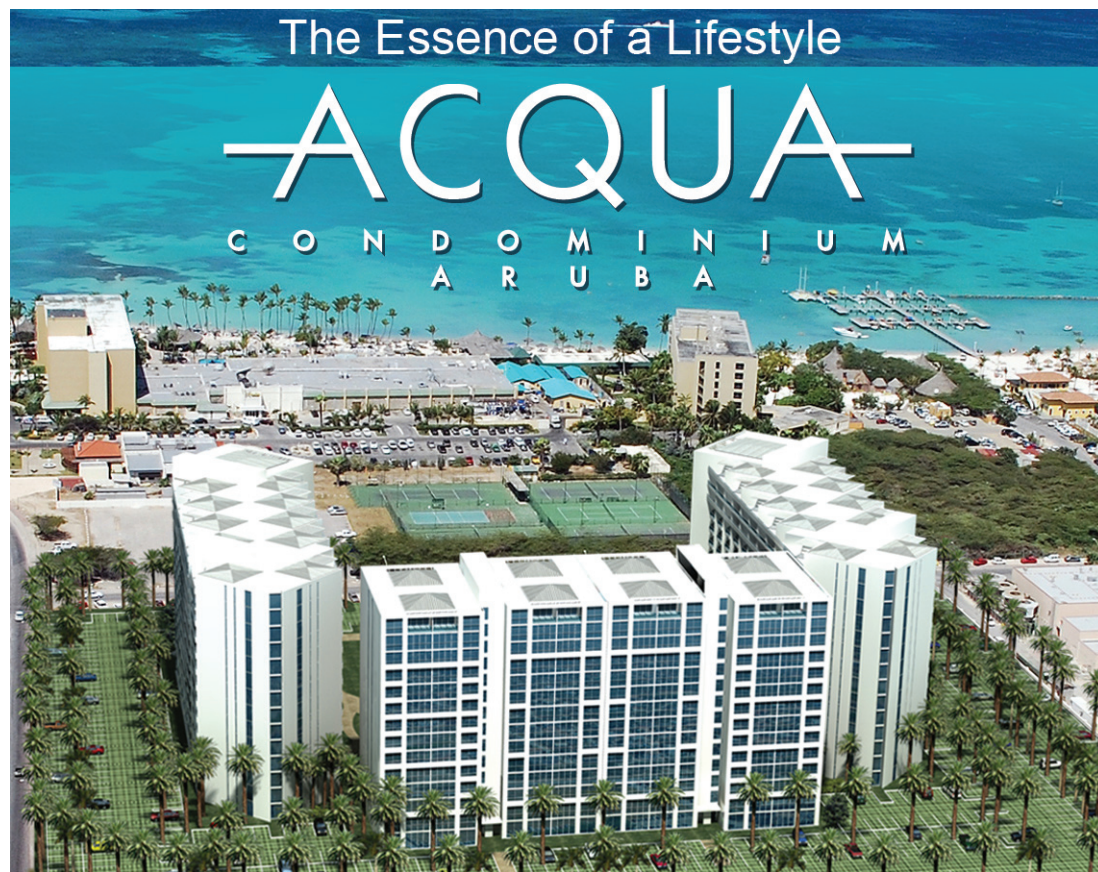
Widely known by his initials CAP, Perez was president 1974-1979 and again 1989-1993. He moved to Florida in 1999, and could not return to Venezuela because of a pending arrest warrant for his role in violent 1989 riots known as the "Caracazo" that resulted in at least 276 killed.

In Miami, Perez wrote articles and opinion pieces denouncing Chavez, and also stated his desire to spend his remaining days in Venezuela.

Chavez on Sunday offered his condolences to Perez's family, adding that they "had all the right" to bring the remains of the ex-president to Venezuela for burial.

During his first term, Perez presided over the nationalization of the oil industry and the creation of state-run Petroleos de Venezuela (PDVSA), which reaped huge returns from soaring oil prices of the early 1970s. But his second term was buffeted by political upheaval, including a failed coup attempt by a then little known army lieutenant colonel, Hugo Chavez, who served two years in prison before being released by Perez's predecessor.

Perez was forced out of office by the Venezuelan Supreme Court in May 1993 for misappropriation of a 250 million bolivar presidential slush fund.



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## Christmas Message by Aruba Governor

Continued from page 1

We recall the sense of sacrifice we experienced in order to achieve that common goal. There is nothing wrong with looking back, especially because there are always benefits from retrospect.

Our community has always been sensitive to change. And, we continue to face new challenges. Over the years our island has been enriched by many who came from different cultures to contribute to our economic development. Through hard work and persistence these expatriates earned their place in our community and today they are part of what we are. On the other hand, we have our children and other members of our family - many of whom have left temporarily - but with whom we maintain contact and continue to feel the oneness of community.

New relationships require new ways of treating each other, with respect to the real-

ization that we will always need each other. Since achieving our new status, we can say that we have come a long way. We now have a measure of economic prosperity, but we cannot stand still, we must press on especially in times when we may be less economically well off...it is then that we need each other as family and as friends.

In the wider sense, in our social groups, we need to take the community to the next level.

That, in essence will require the same spirit experienced in 1986; the focus on one goal with a unified mind.

This will enable us to overcome all barriers or setbacks. We will need to become self assured and resist all hindrances to continue to care for each other. This will ensure the future for every one of us.

Together with my family, I wish every one of you, citizens of Aruba, a merry Christmas.



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## Russia finds Khodorkovsky guilty in second trial

MOSCOW, Russia (AFP) - A Moscow court yesterday found tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky guilty in his second fraud trial, a judgement seen as a pivotal moment in Russia's post-Soviet history that rang alarm bells in the West.

Khodorkovsky and co-ac-

cused Platon Lebedev were convicted of embezzlement and money laundering, said judge Viktor Danilkin, dashing the hopes of Russian liberals the trial would show a new approach from Russian courts.

In a stinging reaction from the West, the German foreign

minister said the verdict was a step backwards for Russia while US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said it would have a negative effect on the country's reputation.

The pair were charged with embezzling 218 million tons of oil from Khodorkovsky's

Yukos oil giant between 1998 and 2003 and laundering 487 billion rubles (16 billion dollars) and 7.5 billion dollars received from the oil.

"This is an unjust verdict by a court that is not free," Khodorkovsky's lead lawyer Vadim Klyugant told journalists. "It is

shameful for the country. We will appeal the verdict."

The court adjourned yesterday evening until today and it was not clear when the final sentence would be delivered. Defence lawyers expressed hope it would come by the end of the year.

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## Sci-Tech

### New Kindle becomes Amazon's all-time best seller



NEW YORK (AFP) – Online retailer Amazon on Monday said its latest Kindle had become the company's best-selling product ever.

Without giving details of the number of units sold, the company said sales of its third generation e-reader had beat sales of "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows."

Jeff Bezos, Amazon.com founder and CEO, said the product's 139-dollar price tag meant owners of tablet computers, such as the iPad, were

also buying Kindles.

"We're seeing that many of the people who are buying Kindles also own an LCD tablet. Customers report using their LCD tablets for games, movies, and web browsing and their Kindles for reading sessions," Bezos said.

Amazon also announced that it sold around 158 items a second on the peak holiday sales day, November 29 -- dubbed "Cyber Monday."

### Bubbles key to New Year's champagne: study



WASHINGTON (AFP) – Days before New Year's Eve, French researchers have found scientific evidence for what many champagne tipplers have long known -- that

the bubbles are the key to a good bubbly.

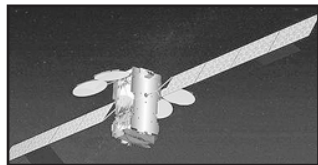
The scientists found that the tiny bubbles "are the essence of fine champagnes and sparkling wines" and play a central role in the transfer of taste, aroma and texture, according to an article published in the American Chemical Society Journal.

The best way to preserve the bubbles is to chill champagne to four degrees C (39 degrees F) and to pour it down the side of an angled flute instead of dumping it into the center of the glass, it said.

Both measures minimize the bubbles lost after the cork is popped.

Millions of Americans will welcome in the new year on Friday night with the traditional champagne, either sipped in a well-poured glass or shaken and sprayed in the air -- yet another demonstration of the bubbles' power.

### Russia puts European satellite Ka-Sat in orbit



MOSCOW (AFP) – Russia on Monday put into orbit the European Ka-Sat satellite launched overnight by a Proton-M rocket from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan, space officials said.

"The satellite was successfully put into orbit at 10:03 Moscow time (0703 GMT)," the Khrunichev space centre said Monday in a statement.

This was Proton's first successful launch after a failure on December 5 of three Russian navigation satellites, Glonass, to reach orbit. They fell into the Pacific some 1,500 kilometres (937 miles) from Hawaii.

After the incident, Russia has temporarily suspended Proton launches. Some experts have said programming errors caused failures.

Ka-Sat will ensure access to broadband Internet for poorly served terrestrial networks in Europe and Mediterranean basin. The satellite was constructed by EADS Astrium for Eutelsat, Europe's leading satellite operator.



**Indian Tata Teleservices Limited, Regional Chief Operating Officer, TPS Walia, attends the Tata Photon Plus launch -USB device for High speed internet access- during a press conference in Amritsar on December 27, 2010. Walia said that Tata Photon plus is an important step in providing customers with high-speed internet access which will enable them to experience the super-fast speed at very affordable prices. AFP PHOTO**

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### Germany reports 'sharp rise' in cyberattacks



BERLIN (AFP) – Germany detected a sharp rise in cyberattacks in 2010, many originating in China, and plans to set up a special centre next year to deal with the danger, the government said on Monday.

"There has been a sharp rise in so-called electronic attacks on the networks of German government and local authorities," interior ministry spokesman Stefan Paris told a regular government briefing.

"Germany is a very high-tech country with considerable experience and know-how, so of course others will naturally try to get hold of this knowledge ... China is playing a large role in this."

In the first nine months of 2010 there were some 1,600 such attacks recorded, compared to around 900 for the whole of 2009, plus most likely a considerable number that went undetected, he said.

The increase was in part due to more and more government business being conducted electronically, he noted however.

The new "National Cyberdefence Centre" will pool the resources and know-how of different government agencies including the federal police and the BND intelligence service with that of private firms, he said.

Europe's biggest economy is far from being alone in seeing government agencies, firms and individuals coming under attack from foreign governments and organised crime attempting to hack into computer networks.

Last year, the United States created its own Cyber Command, while NATO leaders agreed in November to enshrine cybersecurity as one of the 28-nation military alliance's priorities.

Some 65 percent of the world's two billion Internet users are estimated to have fallen victim to cybercrime, a trade so lucrative it is thought to be worth several times that of narcotics.

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## Health & Living

### Six detained in chemical wine scandal in China

BEIJING, China (AFP) - Six people have been detained, several wineries shut down and bottles pulled from shelves in China after authorities found wine containing several chemical additives, state media said.

The incident in Changli county in the central province of Hebei -- an area dubbed "China's Bordeaux" -- is the latest food safety scare to rattle consumer confidence in a country still reeling from a deadly 2008 tainted milk scandal.

An expose broadcast by state television revealed that wineries were doctoring their beverages with sugar water, colouring agents and artificial flavourings, and then falsely using famous brand names, the Global Times said.

The newspaper quoted a leading industry expert, Huang Weidong, as saying the additives could cause cardiac irregularities and headaches, and were possibly carcinogenic.

"We are highly concerned about this behaviour. To ensure safety measures, we have al-

ready started to remove the suspected wines from the shelves," a spokesman for Beijing area Wal-Mart stores, Zhang Tao, told the paper.

The Xinhua news agency reported that provincial authorities had shut down nearly 30 wineries. Corporate accounts with funds totalling 427,000 dollars have been frozen, the Global Times said.

More than 5,000 boxes of wine have been seized, the reports said, though it was not immediately clear how much of the adulterated wine was already on store shelves.

Changli county produces one third of China's home-grown wine, state media said.

The reports come as China gears up for New Year and Lunar New Year celebrations -- a time when alcohol purchases traditionally increase.

The Chinese government has come under increasing pressure from its citizens as well as foreign countries to improve the standard of its food and medicines.

### S.Korea battles rapid spread of foot-and-mouth disease

SEOUL, S.Korea (AFP) - South Korea confirmed 3 new cases of foot-and-mouth disease, since the country's worst outbreak began a month ago.

The agriculture ministry said the new cases were on cattle and pig farms in Yangpyeong county, 55 kilometres (34 miles) east of Seoul, the western port city of Incheon and the southeastern county of Cheongsong.

"About 389,000 animals have been or will soon be culled around the country... numerically, this is the worst outbreak we have ever had," said a ministry official.

The ministry estimates losses related to the disease at around 400 billion won (347.5 million dollars).

In a desperate attempt to curtail the spread of the disease, the government launched vaccinations for some 56,000 cattle -- risking a longer export ban from overseas. It takes longer for a country that launches vaccinations to regain disease-free status from the World Organisation for Animal Health than when the disease is curbed solely by

culling.

The battle is facing another obstacle -- a cold snap that froze disinfectant and spraying equipment. "The situation was pretty hard over the weekend, but it's getting better," said the ministry official.

Some events have been cancelled for fear of spreading the outbreak.

The southeastern province of North Gyeongsang, which

has lost most livestock during the latest outbreak, decided to scrap most state-organised fairs and festivals.

Previous outbreaks in January and April this year cost more than 250 billion won and left nearly 50,000 animals slaughtered.

Foot-and-mouth disease affects cloven-hoofed animals such as cattle, pigs, deer, goats and sheep.

### Stomach flu closes Costa Rica luxury hotel

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AFP) - A luxury resort hotel on Costa Rica's Pacific coast has been closed after more than 200 tourists were sickened in repeated outbreaks of stomach flu, authorities said.

The closure of the Bracelo Playa Tambor, owned by a Spanish hotel chain, came at the peak of a Christmas season that draws flocks of well-heeled US and Canadian tourists seeking respite from the northern winter.

"The decision that has been taken is to close the hotel," Health Minister Maria Luisa Avila said.

"They cannot receive new guests and have 24 hours to evict those already there."

A week before Christmas, 150 guests of the Playa Tambor resort were treated for acute diarrhea, vomiting and nausea at a government-run clinic.

After that wave passed, 40 more guests came down with the stomach flu on Christmas Day, prompting authorities to close the beach resort. "We haven't succeeded in identifying the cause of the contagion," said Avila, adding that it could be at least a week before the hotel reopens.





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## PICKLES



## MOMMA



## CALVIN and HOBBS



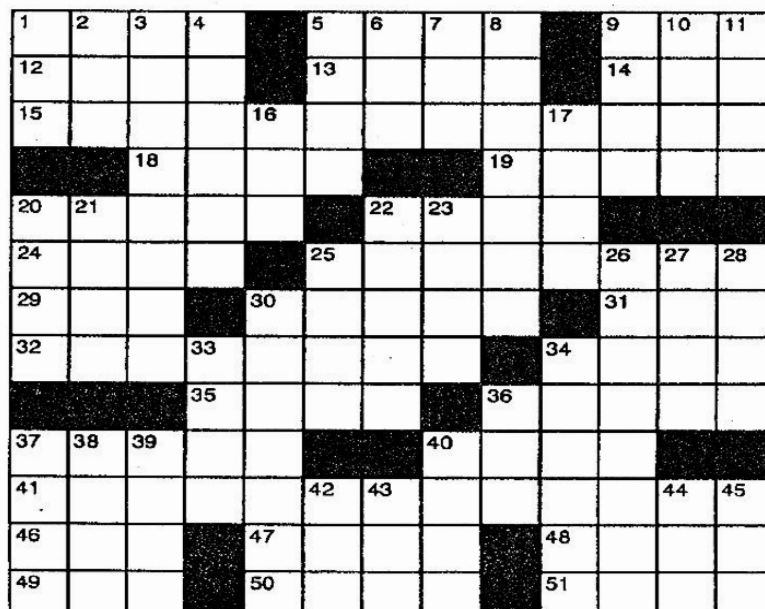
## CROSSWORD

## ACROSS

1. Biting
5. Buzzi or Gordon
9. \_\_\_\_\_ overboard!
12. Austrian river
13. Taj Mahal site
14. One-spot
15. It saves nine
18. Feel sympathy (for)
19. Wined and \_\_\_\_\_
20. "Robinson Crusoe" author
22. Play part
24. Prepare for print
25. Mighty
29. Moslem officer
30. Summons
31. Mineral deposit
32. Plunders
34. Gears
35. Large vases
36. Hotel prices
37. Stockpile
40. Feels poorly
41. What a rolling stone does
46. Kind of maniac

## DOWN

47. Seized
48. Great Lake
49. Drink slowly
50. Son of Adam
51. Impression
9. Principal
10. Summit
11. Lack
16. Definite article
17. Row
20. Grateful \_\_\_\_\_
21. Advantage
22. Biscuits
23. Nocturnal birds
25. French bread
26. Weary from walking
27. Inclination
28. Not as much
30. Support garments
33. Word on a door
34. Soothed
36. \_\_\_\_\_ Grande
37. Ripens
38. Star followers
39. Above
40. Egyptian cross
42. Fish eggs
43. Drunkard
44. Transgression
45. Matched group



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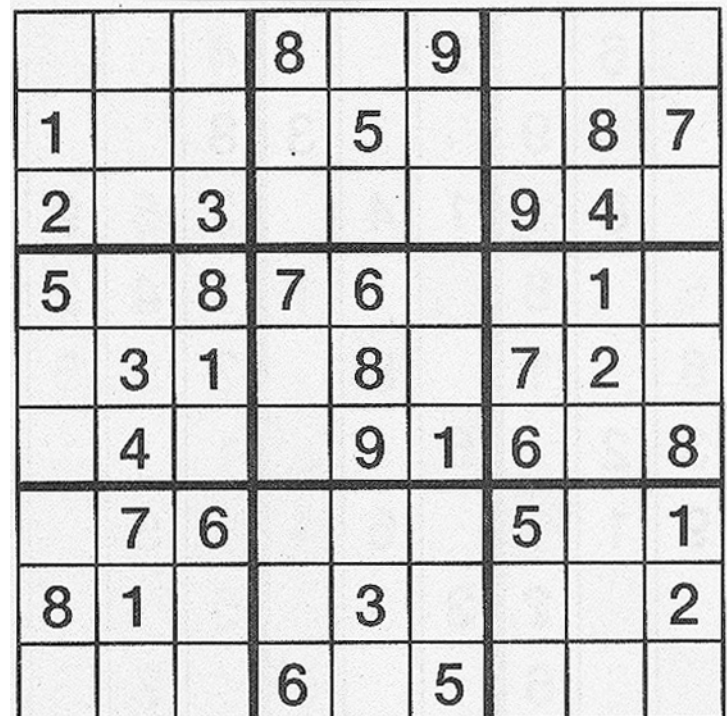
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# Sudoku



**SOLUTION**

8	2	8	9	1	9	7	2	6
2	9	7	2	8	6	9	1	8
1	6	9	8	7	2	9	2	8
8	9	9	1	6	8	2	7	2
6	2	2	7	8	9	1	8	9
7	1	8	2	9	2	8	6	9
9	7	6	9	2	1	8	8	2
2	8	2	8	9	7	6	9	1
9	8	1	6	2	8	2	9	7

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.





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## Finance



This file photo taken in March 2009 shows Tata Group chairman Ratan Tata posing with a Nano car during the vehicle's launch in Mumbai. India's launch of the world's cheapest car, the Nano, was expected to create a vast new market segment in the nation of 1.2 billion people, but reality has fallen short of expectations. (AFP PHOTO)



File photo shows shoppers walking along Oxford Street in central London, on November 2010. Two-thirds of Britons believe the economy will fare badly in 2011 as harsh austerity-cuts designed to tackle a record deficit begin to bite, a poll showed yesterday. (AFP PHOTO)



Japanese high-tech firm Hitachi and Taiwanese IT giant Foxconn are eyeing an alliance to create the world's largest supplier of small and mid-size LCD panels, a business daily reported yesterday. (AFP PHOTO)

## Oil prices climb on US, European weather woes

LONDON, England (AFP) – Oil prices climbed in London yesterday on the expectation of a surge in demand for heating fuel in the face of record low temperatures in Europe and a huge snowstorm in the US northeast.

The London oil market was closed for a holiday but in electronic trade Brent North Sea crude for February delivery rose 26 cents from Friday to 93.72 dollars a barrel.

In electronic deals prior to the opening of the New York Mercantile Exchange a barrel of benchmark "light sweet crude" for February delivery was down 36 cents at 91.15 dollars from Thursday. The market was closed on Friday.

Oil prices last rose above

100 dollars a barrel on October 2, 2008. Prices have firmed considerably in recent days in response to macroeconomic data suggesting that the recovery in the United States, the world's leading energy consumer, was gathering strength.

Prices have risen more than 11 dollars in New York since the start of the year and more than 15 dollars in London.

The spurt yesterday came in response to bitter cold affecting some of the largest energy consumers in Europe, notably France.

In the US northeast, blizzard warnings were issued from coastal New England to New York City, where a massive storm was expected to dump as much as 20 inches (50

centimeters) of snow, accompanied by powerful wind gusts.

Most of the US heating fuel supply is consumed in the northeast.

But analysts said the oil market was likely to show little movement in the last week of the year, which is usually marked by prudence on the part of investors.

## New Kindle becomes Amazon's all-time best seller

NEW YORK CITY (AFP) – Online retailer Amazon yesterday said its latest Kindle had become the company's best-selling product ever.

Without giving details of the number of units sold, the company said sales of its third generation e-reader had beat sales of "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows."

Jeff Bezos, Amazon.com founder and CEO, said the product's 139-dollar price tag meant owners of tablet computers, such as the iPad, were also buying Kindles.

"We're seeing that many of the people who are buying Kindles also own an LCD tablet. Customers report using their LCD tablets for games, movies, and web browsing and their Kindles for reading sessions," Bezos said.

Amazon also announced that it sold around 158 items a second on the peak holiday sales day, November 29 -- dubbed "Cyber yesterday."

## ECB says it bought 1.1 bln euros more public debt

FRANKFURT, Germany (AFP) – The European Central Bank said yesterday that its government bond purchases amounted to 1.121 billion euros (1.47 billion dollars) last week, almost double the amount of the previous week.

Total purchases of public debt under the controversial Securities Markets Program that began in May have now risen to 73.5 billion euros, an ECB statement said.

On December 20, the bank said weekly purchases had fallen to 603 million euros from 2.677 billion in the previous seven-day period.

The ECB has assumed greater risk through its pur-

chases of bonds issued by countries like Greece, Ireland and Portugal as part of an overall European Union/International Monetary Fund plan to stabilise financial markets.

ECB President Jean-Claude Trichet has pressed eurozone governments to get their finances in order, and the bank unveiled on December 16 the biggest capital increase in its 12-year history to protect against potential losses.

The ECB's subscribed capital is to be nearly doubled to 10.76 billion euros through contributions from member central banks, which means the money will come essentially from eurozone capitals.

## Iraq oil production tops 2.6m barrels a day

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AFP) – Iraq's oil output has risen to more than 2.6 million barrels a day, its highest level for two decades, Oil Minister Abdulkarim al-Luaybi said yesterday after a ceremony to mark his official takeover of the ministry.

"Today, our production is over 2.6 million barrels per day," Luaybi told reporters after the ceremony. "This figure has not been reached for

more than 20 years."

Luaybi, who was previously a deputy oil minister, took over from Hussein al-Shahristani, who oversaw the signing of billions of dollars in oil deals that paved the way for global energy majors to return to Iraq more than 30 years after Saddam Hussein kicked them out.

Shahristani is now a deputy prime minister.

## YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

S	L	A	M	M	A	I	D	S	A	L
H	O	P	E	A	C	R	E	T	R	A
E	V	E	R	G	R	E	E	N	A	I
E	D	G	E	S	P	R	A	Y		
		E	E	L	B	E	E	T		
S	H	A	D	O	I	L	P	L	O	T
P	U	T	B	R	A		E	W	E	
A	R	T	E	B	A	D	E	D	E	N
		A	N	D	Y	E	R	N		
B	R	I	D	E		A	L	E	E	
R	A	N	P	E	N	N	Y	A	N	T
A	T	E	O	G	E	E	C	O	O	K
T	E	D	T	O	T	E	E	S	N	E



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## US R&B singer Teena Marie dead at age 54



LOS ANGELES, (AFP) - US R&B singer Teena Marie, whose hits in the 1980s included "I Need Your Lovin'" and "Lovergirl", has died at the age of 54, police said.

Marie was found dead at her home in the Los Angeles suburb of Pasadena on Sunday

afternoon, according to a police spokesman. The paramedics were called after her daughter had found her unconscious.

The cause of the death was not immediately known.

Although she was white, Marie grew up in a predominantly black Los Angeles neighborhood and began singing professionally when she was eight.

After graduating from high school she signed with Motown Records, the label which was home to contemporaries such as Diana Ross and "The Jackson 5."

Funk music pioneer Rick

James, whom she met at the studio, would become her mentor, collaborator and lover.

He produced her 1979 debut album, "Wild and Peaceful," which featured her first hit single, a duet with James called "I'm a Sucker for Your Love."

Marie largely vanished from the public eye in the early 1990s after the birth of her daughter, Alia.

She produced her first new album of the new century in 2004. Called "La Dona," it featured the song "Still in Love," which earned her a Grammy nomination.

## Rotterdam police arrest 12 Somali terror suspects

THE HAGUE, The Netherlands (AFP) - Twelve men of Somali origin have been arrested in the Dutch port city of Rotterdam on suspicion of involvement in terrorist activities, the Netherlands prosecution service said on week-end.

The men were arrested following a tip-off by Dutch intelligence "that a number of Somalis wanted to commit a terrorist attack in the Netherlands in the near future," a statement said.

The suspects are aged between 19 and 48. Six lived in

Rotterdam, five had no known address and one was a Danish resident.

"They are of Somali origin, but several of them have Dutch nationality and one of them has Danish nationality," prosecution spokesman Wim de Bruin told AFP. "We have not yet determined the nationality of some of them."

Investigators searched a shop and four houses in Rotterdam and two motel rooms in the southern town of Gilze-Rijen as part of the probe, but found no weapons or explo-

sives.

De Bruin said the men "are being questioned".

"They will be brought before a judge within three days to decide whether or not to keep them in custody."

More arrests were not on the cards "for now," the spokesman said.

Judith Sluiter, spokeswoman for the National Coordinator for Counter-Terrorism, said the arrests did not warrant changing the country's terror threat level from "limited".

## Have you had your breakfast today? The Old Fisherman offers breakfast with an Aruban twist



Linda and Ramon Pimienta with their son Raymond, at right

When Linda and Ramon Pimienta started their small business at the old wharf down town, little did they know that they had a goldmine when it comes to the perfect blend of international and local cuisine. Nowadays, they are located right behind the Royal Plaza Mall where they serve up a storm to visitors and locals alike. What is their secret? Offering high quality dishes at super prizes that fit anyone's budget.

have been with the company for ten years are ready to serve you with a smile.

Besides serving traditional breakfast dishes such as eggs sunny side up with ham and cheese, scrambled or plain they also serve pastechi horna (a small pie pocket with different fillings), crêpes, sweet crêpes and bagels with cream cheese, smoked salmon or boiled eggs.

If you want to really experience the Aruban twist you might want to try something



For ten years The Old Fisherman has been serving local cuisine with an international twist for lunch and dinner and they have managed to stay on top by using high quality fresh ingredients. From their fish cakes with "funchi" (polenta) and "pan

from the local breakfast menu served on pan grandi (rama) or a baguette. You can try the delicious kerrie-kerrie (a typical Aruban flaked fish), conch, fish egg, shrimp, fish fillet, fish cake and the chicken soup or you can have fruit salad and yoghurt.



bati" nicely presented to soup of the day accompanied by delicious deserts.

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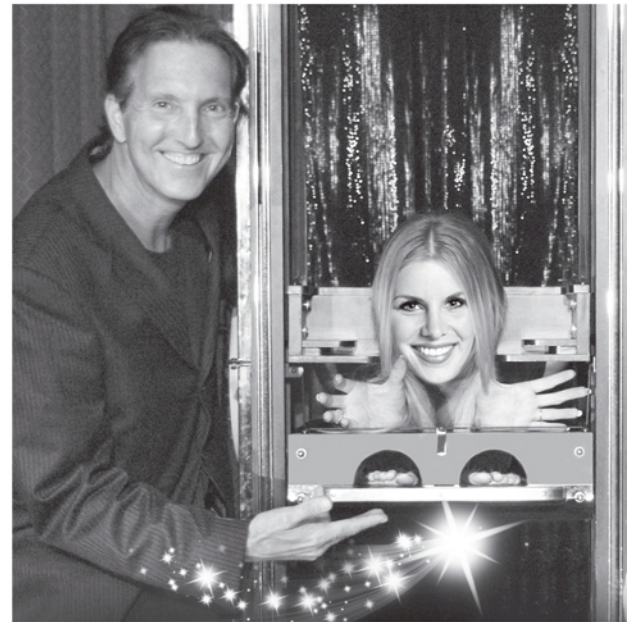
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**WHAT:** Comedy Magic, Grand Illusion show.

**COST:** \$20.00 (under 15), \$35.00 adult

**TICKETS:** at the door, Box office, Westin Lobby, front desk or all De Palm Tours concierge desks

**GROUP SALES:** 561-1090

## Armenian police target teenage rock cult

YEREVAN, Armenia (AFP) — When police officers arrived at 13-year-old Masha's home, searched her room and inspected her computer, it was not because they suspected her of any crime.

Her offence was simply to be a devoted follower of the angst-ridden punk-rock subculture known as 'emo', in an ex-Soviet state where pressures to conform remain strong.

"It was offensive and frightening at the same time," said Masha, a schoolgirl in the Ar-

menian capital, clearly upset by the experience.

Police in Yerevan have been conducting a campaign against the capital's small but controversial emo community since the recent suicides of two teenagers who were rumoured to have been emo fans.

Officers have visited schools, searched pupils whose distinctive clothing marks them out as possible 'emos', and mounted surveillance on public places where young people gather.



Several fans have been detained for questioning, despite the lack of any specific legislation against the musical genre or its followers.

In a recent newspaper interview, Armenia's Chief of Police, Alik Sarkisian, claimed that emo could "damage our gene pool". "We should fight against such phenomena because they are morally harmful to our people," he said.

Emo -- an abbreviation of 'emotional' -- is a more melodic and melancholy form of punk rock. It has origins in the United States but has become a well-established global subculture in recent years.

Masha and her friend Ani, also 13, say they started dressing in the unconventional emo style in an attempt to stand out from what they call "the grey masses".

But they now feel that they

have to disguise themselves in ordinary clothes for fear of detention or harassment by other youths. "They point and laugh at us. Or even worse, they sometimes beat up our boys," Ani said.

Sensationalist media reports in Europe have suggested that the gloomy lyrics of some emo songs can influence teenagers to harm themselves or attempt suicide, although fans have consistently rejected the accusation.

Some people in Yerevan believe that emo can cause suicidal depression, and also see it as a degenerate Western influence on traditional Armenian values.

Members of the youth wing of a local police association held a march against the subculture in the capital this month, carrying banners that read "No to foreign perversions!"

One teacher in a Yerevan suburb, who asked not to be named, said the directors of some schools supported the police action, and had even been actively encouraging officers to search pupils who dressed unusually and check them for signs of self-harm.

A local human rights ac-

tivist compared the police's behaviour to a Communist-era witch-hunt. "It is like the repression in Soviet times, when law enforcement agencies were chasing hippies, punks and rockers -- all those who refused to live within society's limits and be like everyone else," said Mikael Danielian, chairman of the Helsinki Committee of Armenia.

But the police say they are only intervening to protect vulnerable youngsters. "We are conducting explanatory, preventative work among teenagers and their parents to prevent children from becoming hooligans and from thoughts of suicide." however, she said that she could not blame emo music for the reported rise in teenage suicide attempts in Armenia this year.

Young fans like Masha and Ani have been worried by the anti-emo campaign, but they insist that they will not be pressured into abandoning the subculture that they love.

"It is impossible to ban youth movements using repressive methods," Ani said defiantly. "We will not stop listening to our music and dressing how we like. This is my choice."

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# Rampant Arsenal leave Chelsea in tatters



**Arsenal's Spanish midfielder Cesc Fabregas (C) celebrates scoring the second goal with his teammates during their English Premier League football match against Chelsea at the Emirates Stadium, London**

LONDON (AFP) - Arsenal kept the pressure on Premier League leaders Manchester United and delivered a hammer blow to Chelsea's hopes of retaining the title with a 3-1 victory over the struggling champions on Monday.

Arsene Wenger's side had repeatedly failed to produce the goods in crunch matches against their London rivals, but they finally rose to the occasion as goals from Alex Song, Cesc Fabregas and Theo Walcott gave them a vital victory at the Emirates Stadium.

Branislav Ivanovic got one back for Chelsea but the damage had already been done and Blues boss Carlo

Ancelotti could face a fight to save his job after his team's sixth league game without a win.

Arsenal's triumph - their first in 12 games against Chelsea and United - lifted them back into second place and within two points of the leaders.

In contrast, Chelsea's title hopes are close to being extinguished. They are six points behind United, who have a game in hand, and even a place in the top four can't be taken for granted on this woeful form.

Although Ancelotti's team had taken just six points from their last seven matches, the club's worst run since 1998,

they should have been able to draw inspiration from their dominance over Arsenal in recent years.

Wenger's players rose to the challenge in impressive fashion and controlled possession right from the start.

Samir Nasri brought Chelsea goalkeeper Petr Cech into action for the first time with a long-range free-kick.

Wenger's side kept probing and Robin van Persie blazed over before Cech plunged at Walcott's feet to block the winger's shot.

It took an even better save from Cech to keep Chelsea on level terms when he stretched every sinew to tip over Nasri's deft chip.

Arsenal's pressure finally told in the 44th minute as Song surged into the penalty area after playing a one-two with Jack Wilshere.

The ball broke towards Fabregas and, as the Arsenal captain collided with Paulo Ferreira, Cameroon midfielder Song seized his chance and drove a low shot past Cech.

Lampard's presence in the Chelsea starting line-up for the first time in four months after hernia and groin injuries was supposed to inspire the Blues, but the England midfielder was well off the pace.

If Ancelotti read the riot act at half-time, he must have been sorely disappointed with the response from his lacklustre stars.

In the space of 90 seconds, two sloppy pieces of Chelsea defending presented Arsenal with the goals that put the result beyond doubt.

First, Michael Essien's 51st minute tackle on Fabregas sent the ball into Walcott's path.

Walcott was then granted too much space by former Arsenal defender Ashley Cole and he was able to sprint clear before sliding a pass to Fabregas, who stroked his shot past Cech.

Arsenal were rampant now and, with Chelsea looking more shambolic by the second, Walcott took full advantage as he caught Florent Malouda in possession and flicked a pass to Fabregas.

The Spaniard's return ball put Walcott through on goal and he drove a fine finish into the far corner of Cech's net, prompting a furious response from Drogba, who argued with team-mate John Terry before the restart.

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## Argentina big five 123 million in debt - report

BUENOS AIRES, December 27, 2010 (AFP) - Argentina's big five clubs are 650 million pesos (123.5 million euros) in debt, with River Plate in the most precarious position, local media reported on Monday.

The Tiempo Argentino newspaper claimed that River Plate have a deficit of almost 80 million pesos - a record for an Argentine club - and debts of 216.8 million pesos, of which 190 million is due to be repaid in 12 months.

Boca Juniors, Independiente, Racing Club and San Lorenzo are the other four major sides with serious financial worries.

All five failed to make any impression in the Argentine title race this season with Estudiantes taking the championship, two points ahead of Velez Sarsfield.

River Plate were fourth, Racing sixth, Boca were 11th, San Lorenzo finished in 13th place with Independiente in 20th and last spot.

## Bad boy Cassano joins AC Milan teammates



MILAN (AFP) - Controversial Italian forward Antonio Cassano on Monday joined up with his future AC Milan teammates for a winter training camp in Dubai.

The out-of-favour Sampdoria player's transfer to AC Milan will be completed on January 2.

A smiling and visibly moved Cassano was already wearing his new team's training kit as he was greeted by a crowd of fans at Milan airport before the team jetted out for the Middle East.

His contract will not be filed before the official opening of the transfer market on January 2, but agreement has been reached allowing the player to join his new team's training camp in Dubai.

"We're expecting a lot from him, he's a bonus to the team," said AC Milan defender Massimo Oddo.

"We hope that everything will go well. Milan offers a favourable environment because they give you everything but they demand respect. We'll also be keeping an eye on him."

Cassano, 28, joined Sampdoria from Real Madrid in 2007. But he was frozen out of the club after insulting president Riccardo Garrone during an argument in October.

Sampdoria had applied to have his contract unilaterally terminated for gross misconduct.

An Italian league arbitration board ruled that his salary should be cut by 50 percent, but that his contract could not be cancelled.

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## Patriots take NFL top seed, Ravens and Chiefs clinch

BUFFALO, New York (AFP) — New England trounced Buffalo 34-3 to lock up home field advantage throughout the playoffs as Baltimore, Kansas City and the New York Jets punched their NFL playoff tickets.

The Patriots had already secured a playoff berth, but they'll be even tougher to beat now that they have wrapped up the American Conference top seed.

Quarterback Tom Brady threw three touchdown passes, including two to tight end Rob Gronkowski, and extended his streak of attempts without an interception to 319.

That topped the league record of 308 set by Bernie Kosar with Cleveland in the 1990-91 seasons.

"I guess I'm glad I'm not throwing interceptions," Brady said, but he was more happy to see his team clinch their eighth division title in 10 years and finish first in their conference for the third time since 2003.

"It never gets old," Brady said. "We never get tired of winning."

The Patriots have gone seven straight games without a turnover and have only turned the ball over nine times this season.

Coach Bill Belichick didn't realize until after the game that Brady had surpassed

Kosar's mark.

"That's great," Belichick said. "Tom does a great job of managing the game and taking care of the ball. I think he deserves that."

While the Patriots were busy smoothing their playoff path, a host of other teams were jockeying for postseason position.

Baltimore got in with a win, while Kansas City needed a victory and some help from rivals San Diego. The New York Jets advanced despite a defeat, while Philadelphia clinched their division title despite not stepping on the field.

The Ravens secured their playoff berth with a 20-10 victory over Cleveland.

Ravens quarterback Joe Flacco threw two touchdown passes and Baltimore's defense stymied the Browns, who remain tied with Pittsburgh for the AFC North division title with one game remaining.

The New York Jets and New York Giants also had chances to book playoff berths with victories -- and both lost.

The Jets fell 38-34 at play-off-bound Chicago, suffering their third defeat in four games. They advanced to the playoffs anyway, courtesy of Jacksonville's 20-17 overtime loss to Washington.

"This was a bit odd," ad-

mitted Jets running back LaDainian Tomlinson, who saw the Redskins win on television. "We went from being down, a blown opportunity to 'we're in.'"

The Giants' playoff hopes took a hit with a 45-17 defeat at Green Bay. The Giants continued to struggle with turnovers. They gave up two fumbles and quarterback Eli Manning threw four interceptions.

Kansas City got a needed 34-14 victory over Tennessee, then clinched the AFC West title when San Diego fell 34-20 to Cincinnati.

Philadelphia's home game against Minnesota was postponed until Tuesday because of the threat of a blizzard, but the Eagles were celebrating the NFC East title after the Giants lost.

Indianapolis, last season's Super Bowl runner-up, defeated Oakland 31-26 to move within one win of securing the AFC South title.

Peyton Manning threw three touchdown passes and the Colts overcame his two second-half interceptions.

The victory, coupled with Jacksonville's defeat, means the Colts will reach the playoffs with a victory against the Titans next week or a Jaguars loss at Houston.

St. Louis defeated San Francisco 25-17 to give themselves a chance to claim a playoff berth next week.

The Rams need to beat NFC West division rivals Seattle to claim the division and their first playoff berth since 2004.

Seattle still have a chance to deny the Rams the division title, despite falling 38-15 at Tampa Bay.

In other games, Detroit defeated Miami 34-27 and Denver rallied from a 17-0 halftime deficit to edge Houston 24-23.

## Hip injury sidelines Seattle QB Hasselbeck

TAMPA, Florida (AFP) — A hip injury forced Seattle quarterback Matt Hasselbeck out of the NFL game against Tampa Bay, and the Seahawks may not have him back for the crucial regular-season finale next weekend.

Seahawks coach Pete Carroll said it's likely that Hasselbeck, who was scheduled to have an MRI exam on Monday, won't practice this week.

The Seahawks play the St. Louis Rams on Sunday for the title in the weak NFC West division.

"We'll watch closely what happened with Matt," Carroll

said. "We'll have to see how that works out. We'll give him all week. Just rest him and see what happens."

Hasselbeck hurt his left hip on a one-yard touchdown run in which he rolled out of the pocket to his right and ran into the end zone untouched late in the first quarter.

He bent over briefly, began to walk off the field than sat down in the end zone.

"It just got real tight on me real fast," said Hasselbeck said. "That was disappointing. I tried to come around real quick and it's just how I hurt it."



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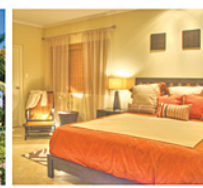


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## Harbhajan hails Zaheer as bowlers dominate

DURBAN (AFP) - Indian off-spin bowler Harbhajan Singh hailed the contribution of returning fast bowler Zaheer Khan at the end of a bowler-dominated second day of the second Test against South Africa at Kingsmead on Monday.

Singh said India were in with a good chance of squaring the three-match series after bowling out South Africa for 131 on a day during which 18 wickets fell for 245 runs.

India were 92 for four in their second innings, an overall lead of 166 runs in the battle between the world's two

top-ranked Test nations.

Khan and Harbhajan were mainly responsible for the South African collapse. Khan, who missed the first Test because of injury, took three for 36 and Harbhajan four for 10.

The left-armed Khan set the tone by dismissing South African opening batsmen Graeme Smith and Alviro Petersen.

"Zaheer is an experienced guy and it is great to see him taking crucial wickets," said Harbhajan.

"He's been outstanding. It's not just taking wickets, he helps the other bowlers to

bowl well. He's the man."

Harbhajan and South African batsman AB de Villiers agreed that the pitch was better than suggested by the scoreboard.

"There's nothing wrong with the wicket, although there is a little bit of extra bounce," said Harbhajan. "When Hashim Amla was going well after lunch batting looked very simple."

Harbhajan's dismissal of Amla for 33, when the batsman missed a sweep and was leg before wicket, sent the South African batting into a spiral in which the last six wickets fell for 35 runs.

## Steve Francis leaves Beijing Ducks

BEIJING (AFP) - Former NBA All-Star Steve Francis left the Beijing Ducks Monday, ending the troubled guard's brief stint in China's professional basketball league, state press reported.

Francis told the club he was willing to leave after walking out at half-time during Beijing's 104-89 win over the Jiangsu Dragons Sunday and missed Christmas Day practice, Xinhua news agency said, citing club assistant manager Yuan Chao.

"I talked to Francis in the morning about his leaving

during the match and his absence from the training session. I told him, on behalf of the club and the team, that we wanted him to leave," Xinhua quoted Yuan as saying.

Yuan earlier told AFP that the team and Francis were in discussions over his departure.

In about two weeks with the Ducks, Francis -- a three-time NBA All-Star and former teammate of star Chinese centre Yao Ming -- played in four games, averaging 0.5 points and 0.7 rebounds in about three minutes per match.



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